

RECOGNIZING VFW POST 7814

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Thomas-Fields Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7814, which was founded on July 11, 1946.

When African-American veterans of World War II returned to their homes in the Staunton-Augusta area, they were, unfortunately, excluded from their local VFW Post. Following their denied admittance, a group of 42 veterans then applied for a charter to organize their own post, which would carry the namesakes of Charles Thomas and Glenwood Fields, two African Americans from Staunton who died while serving their country in World War II.

Since its formation, the Thomas-Fields Post has been an active civic organization in the African-American community of Staunton and Augusta County, as well as playing an active and significant role in local area veterans' activities.

While the post welcomes all veterans, it continues to highlight the heritage of African-American and minority veterans who have served our Nation.

Recently, Post 7814 was recognized as a Meritorious Post by the State VFW Federation for its outstanding work over the last 5 years and was also named an All-American Post by the National VFW Council for the first time in its history.

The Thomas-Fields VFW Post is to be commended for its work in our community and their efforts to aid those who served. I congratulate them on this historic milestone and wish them another successful 75 years.

□ 1100

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for the Cuban people who have taken to the streets to protest the oppressive Communist regime there, a regime that has stripped them of their basic human rights.

Since its inception 62 years ago, the Communist Party has caused immeasurable harm and created unbearable conditions in Cuba.

Cuba's people want freedom. They want to provide for their families and know that their kids will be safe and healthy—and Cuba is not that place, and it hasn't been that place for far too long.

Right now, its people are facing widespread power outages, the most severe food shortage since the 1990s and inflation rates nearing 500 percent.

In an effort to contain the truth about what is really going on, the government cut off its citizens' access to the internet to silence the dissent.

Instead of trying to address the issues plaguing the island nation, they have, instead, decided to suppress those voicing concern. Since the protest began, more than 100 people have been

detained or have gone missing, including artists, peace activists, and priests. It should be no surprise that Cubans are marching in the streets demanding their rights.

We have all seen the images of people waving American flags and fleeing in makeshift boats overflowing with folks willing to risk their lives to experience freedom. They want what we are so blessed to have, and, yet, there is a segment of our society bent on pushing the United States toward the failed notion of communism and socialism. It is mind-boggling.

We must stand strongly for freedom, stand firmly with the people, and stand boldly with a free Cuba.

DEFENDING THE UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the precious lives of our unborn. Last week, my colleagues in the Appropriations Committee voted to authorize taxpayer-funded abortions by passing a spending bill that omits the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortions and it has saved an estimated 2.5 million lives. It has been included in every appropriations package since 1976 until now. The move to eliminate Hyde is another blatant attack on the sanctity of life, following this administration's budget proposal that has also failed to include the Hyde amendment and other pro-life policies in Federal programs.

This is a crucial moment for all of us to uphold the inherent dignity of human life. Every unborn child should have the right to life. There are few greater priorities. I will continue to do everything in my power to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard taxpayer consciences, and to preserve the sanctity of life. We must protect the Hyde amendment.

LIBERTY FOR CUBA

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for liberty, for freedom. For over 60 years, the Cuban people have been oppressed by the worst impulses of a brutal regime and the failed promises of Communist propaganda. What we are seeing today is those people are saying "enough is enough." The Cuban people are shouting "libertad" for freedom, waving American flags and rising up to finally demand independence and autonomy over their own lives.

Cuba is showing us in real time. In fact, they are showing the world in real time that massive government control over society simply does not work, and how its demise quickly spirals into deadly conditions of poverty, starvation, and hopelessness.

I recently had the chance to speak to a Cuban American and a Cuban. Their stories are horrific about the atrocities that their own government is using,

the violence, that they are using to control the society.

This is causing enough desperation that Cubans will stare down their oppressors in the streets. They will risk their lives, crossing treacherous waters on homemade rafts to reach the shores of America, the shores of freedom.

The truth is clear: The United States remains the beacon of freedom and democracy around the world. We must do everything in our power to keep it that way and valiantly support liberty at home and abroad.

FLEEING OF TEXAS DEMOCRATS

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment in the dereliction of duty of Texas Democrats who last week in the State legislature decided to flee the State to keep the Texas House from taking any action during the special session.

This stunt, complete with private jets and plenty of congratulatory media coverage, slows the passage of initiatives including: family violence prevention, property tax relief; support for our teachers; and a widely supported bill to strengthen election integrity.

The majority of Texans support safeguarding our elections. Unfortunately, colleagues in the Texas House are peddling lies about the election integrity bill. In reality, this measure merely disbands COVID-19 voting protocols that had never been used prior to 2020, while creating a more secure voting process.

Showing ID, proving who you are in a State and Federal Government election allows thousands of people to enter illegally every single day, and ending voting at 4 o'clock in the morning. It is time for the media and the Washington elites who are cheering on this charade to see it for what it really is: political theater. Texans deserve better.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BROWNLEY) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, with confidence, we approach Your throne of grace, praying for Your protection over us this day. Deliver us from all that seeks to undo our noble responsibilities.

Save us from our adversaries who attempt to thwart our best efforts, whose

words target our integrity, and whose anger and prejudice will not yield to reason. We pray Your deliverance.

Save us from our cultural rancor. In this country where we are quick to take sides, reckless in our judgment of the other, and have found ourselves mired in doubt, confusion, mistrust, and hopelessness, we pray Your deliverance.

Save us from ourselves, for we are as culpable as those we accuse. Forgive us our shortsightedness, our self-preservation, our hardened hearts, and our lack of faith. When we cling to our own certainty and rightness, we pray Your deliverance. Then call us to hold fast to Your righteousness, that we may once again thrive in the confidence and the hope we find only in You.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, last year, in my hometown of Buffalo, New York, we experienced a 90 percent increase in gun violence; 355 people were involved in this.

As of July of this year, 46 people have lost their lives to gun violence. This morning, the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force heard from experts in community violence interventions. These experts affirmed what we know; that gun violence in our country is tearing families and neighborhoods apart. Their testimony adds support for our efforts to provide \$5 million in the American Rescue Plan Act funding to groups in Buffalo to prevent and reduce violence before it occurs.

This funding will support trusted messengers, good messengers, credible messengers; a coalition of peace-

keeping organizations who will work on our streets to stop violence before it occurs.

Congress passed the American Rescue Plan to deliver relief to communities ravaged by the pandemic. Now our communities are facing a spike in violence that began during the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, they need help, and they need help now.

INFLATION IS TAXATION

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of rising inflation on American consumers.

The Consumer Price Index jumped by 5.4 percent this year through June, the largest year-over-year gain since 2008. From the higher cost of gas, to the higher price of used cars, to the price of food at your local grocery store, small businesses and Americans are paying more for goods and services, due in large part to government spending during COVID-19 and now Democrats' reckless economic agenda.

It is as simple as this: Inflation is taxation.

As a small business owner for 50 years, I can tell you these increased prices are creating challenges for consumers whose budgets are being stretched thinner and thinner every single month.

The Democrat solution to all of this? Ram through a partisan \$3.5 trillion package that will further increase taxes on the American people and completely disregard rising inflation.

It is pretty simple.

Raising taxes, less jobs.

Lower tax, more jobs.

Congress must return to some fiscal sanity and Democrats must resist the temptation to spend our way out of this situation, as rising inflation and the growing national debt become an unrelenting enemy.

In God we trust.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise on the 200th day of the House Democrats delivering for the people.

Madam Speaker, over the years, I have had the opportunity to mentor young girls from hard-pressed families, and I will tell you this, they taught me more than I ever could teach them. And I learned that even with mothers working two jobs, there were weeks of just peanut butter in their pantry and having to move place to place just to find affordable rent.

That is why I celebrate the historic expansion of the child tax credit in the American Rescue package, because it

has the power to lift millions of children out of poverty, give them the futures they deserve. It is going to help our families thrive and our economy to recover. We can build back better by lifting our children.

HONORING JIM STABERG

(Mr. TIFFANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks here, I want to wish my eldest daughter, Karlyn Tiffany, a happy birthday.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and resident of my district in Wisconsin. Jim Staberg of Hudson served in the Army from March of 1943 to June of 1946, and again September 1950 to July 1952.

During his first tour of duty, Mr. Staberg was originally assigned to the Army band, but as America was drawn into World War II, he found himself reassigned and serving as a gunner during vehicle patrols throughout Europe.

Mr. Staberg was involved in a heroic defensive stand by the Allies against Hitler's last charge at the Battle of the Bulge. He also served at the historic Nuremberg trials following the war, but this was not the end of Mr. Staberg's service.

Jim was shipped off to Korea for a second tour of duty, where he would, once again, defend freedom in the face of communist aggression. After his time in service, Jim married and had three children in Hudson, Wisconsin, which he still calls home today.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful State and Nation, I thank Jim Staberg for his service.

200 DAYS OF WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today marks the 200th day of this Congress and of House Democrats working for the people.

Working together with the Biden administration, we have put our economy back on track, curbed the spread of COVID-19, and put money into the pockets of our constituents. It was only Democrats that voted for the American Rescue Plan, which helped create 3 million jobs, deliver stimulus checks, and extend the child tax credit.

The American Rescue Plan also delivered on one of my most urgent priorities, ending the maternal mortality crisis. Allowing States to extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum care from 60 days to one full year postpartum will save lives.

Outside of the recovery package, we have continued working on other priorities, like advancing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and passing commonsense gun violence prevention measures to protect and improve the lives of everyday Americans.